Country	Number of Indians
United Arab Emirates	1200000
United Kingdom	130000
United States of America	1300000
Uruguay	10
Uzbekistan	360
Vanuatu	0
Venezuela	400
Vietnam	350
Western Samoa	10
Yemen	3500
Yugoslavia	16
Zaire	650
Zambia	60000
Zimbabwe	15500
TOTAL	6758192

Alternate Route for Kailash Mansarovar

1322. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for shifting the existing route to reach the Kailash Mansarovar through Lion Chowk in Ladakh;

(b) whether this alternate route is to cross the Chinese boundary;

(c) how far this route crosses the Chinese boundary; and

(d) whether Government have approached the Chinese Government about the use of that route and the reaction of Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Since 1993, the Government have taken up proposals for an additional/alternate route with the Chinese side. The Demchok (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir) route is one of them. This route was proposed taking in account the existing logistical facilities which extend almost upto the border.

The Chinese Government's response has been that our proposals for alternative routes are under consideration in consultation with the local authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

They have cited difficulties in opening new routes on the grounds that it would involve travel over much longer distances over difficult terrain with poor road conditions, and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time.

Government of India, for its part, are willing to consider new routes taking into account the availability of infrastructure and logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

Development of Nuclear Warheads for Gauri Missiles

1323. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the U.S. Intelligence reports quoted in the Washington Times some time in early September, 1998 regarding Pakistan developing nuclear warheads for its Gauri missiles with the technical help of China and North Korea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto and how does Government think that such activities of Pakistan would affect the ongoing talks between the two countries on various issues to normalise relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government have seen the report in the Washington